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SHOCK AS COUPLE DIE

A DEVOTED couple died within a week By Oliver Evans of each other after the husband was involved in an accident in a Chipping Norton car park.

David Mond said his mother, Phyllis, "gave up" after losing her husband of 65 years, Nathaniel, known as Peter. She was 92.

Great-grandfather Mr Mond, 96, was knocked over by a reversing Ford Ka in the Co-op store's Albion Street car park on Thursday, April 4.

The retired GP died at Oxford's John Radcliffe Hospital on Wednesday, April 17, and his wife, who had dementia, passed away on Tuesday of last week.

They had retired to Charlbury in the mid 1970s but he moved to Chipping Norton when she went into Beech Haven Care Home eight years ago.

David Mond said: "It seems to us that although my mother's response wasn't at all obvious, when we told her of my father's death, she just decided to give up.

The couple will now be buried together at a date to be announced.

He said of his parents, who had met on a blind date: "They were extremely close. They had a very happy life together."

Mr Mond Snr visited his wife - with whom he had three children, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild - every day.

He was the son of poor Polish Jewish immigrants and grew up in the East End of London, where he won a scholarship to University College Hospital.

As a communist who opposed the marches by Oswald Mosley's blackshirts, Mr Mond volunteered as an Army doctor at the

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outbreak of war, regarding fascism as "uniquely evil".

His roles included treating PoWs and tending frontline casualties in North Africa and Italy, including the 1944 Battle of Monte Cassino.

He returned to work as a GP in Kingsbury, Middlesex, just as the NHS was formed. He was an avid supporter.

David Mond said: "My father hated the commercial aspect of treating patients, who often couldn't afford to pay.

"He was very happy to have gone up in

the world. In Charlbury they were incredibly happy. They made a tremendous number of

Mr Mond was a keen gardener and was active in the Campaign to Protect Rural England. He also worked as a volunteer for a meals-on-wheels service and celebrated his 90th birthday with a parachute jump in Bicester.

A post mortem examination recorded Mr Mond's cause of death as bronchopneumonia.

Maggie Watson, a neighbour in Shepard Way, Chipping Norton, said: "He was the most wonderful neighbour you could ever



Picture from the family album: a holiday shot of 'Peter' and Phyllis Mond



Final plea on county council polling day from the political party leaders - Page 9



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BANBURY CAKE, Thursday, May 2, 2013

InBRIEF

Man held over attack on boy

■ A MAN, aged 21, has been arrested over an attack on a 12-year-old boy. Thames Valley Police said a man approached the boy in Calthorpe Street, Banbury, and punched him, knocking him out. The youth was then kicked and required hospital treatment following the incident on March 9. Police only released the details this week. The man has been released on bail until May 21.

Gems stolen

■ JEWELLERY has been stolen from a house in Horton View. Thieves broke a lock on the french doors to get inside sometime between 1.30pm and 3.30pm on Thursday of last week. Anyone who may have seen suspicious activity has been urged to call police

Charity cash

■ THE Chipping Norton Rotary Club has raised £1,100 for the Oxford Centre for Enablement. Cash was raised at the club's annual race night and will be used by the centre's physiotherapy departments. The centre provides specialist neurological rehabilitation for patients with long-term conditions.

Prison threat after former inmate admits owning air guns

A SERIAL offender, who clocked up 35 convictions for 239 offences over 24 years, has been given a four-month suspended sentence for possessing two

Michael Lilley, of Hearthway, Banbury, admitted owning two air rifles which police found after a search.

The 41-year-old was banned from possessing "firearms" after serving a three-year sentence for aggravated burglary in 1997.

Graham Bennett, defending, said: "He didn't appreciate that an air rifle was defined as being a firearm." Police also found a small amount of cannabis.

Sentencing, Judge Gordon Risius said: "You say you did not realise that the custodial sentence you were given prohibited you from possessing air rifles. Mr Bennett has persuaded me that you are not the only person who finds the legal provision difficult to follow."

Lilley was given four months on each

of the two counts of possessing a firearm when prohibited, to be served concurrently, and one month concurrent for cannabis possession, all of which are suspended for two years. He pleaded guilty to all offences. He was also ordered to complete 120 hours of unpaid work and pay £200 costs.

Artist joins appeal to save threatened railway station artwork

Petition over mural

By Oliver Evans

THE artist behind a mural at Banbury station, which is set to be removed to make way for a new coffee shop, has signed a petition calling for it to stay.

Nigel Fletcher's 2001 mural marked the 150th anniversary of Isambard Kingdom Brunel's broad gauge railway.

But Chiltern Railways is to cover it up or remove it to make way for a Costa coffee shop.

Mr Fletcher said: "I hate to think that the depiction of such an important event in the town's history could be discarded for the sake of a coffee shop

"I am pleased to see increasing public support and hope that Chiltern Railways will see sense and listen to the general public."

The petition – launched last month – has 65 signatures so far. Paul Pueschel wrote on it: "It shows the history of Banbury and should remain at Banbury station."

Karl Fletcher said: "It keeps Banbury unique. It's nice not to see Costa or other chains around every corner.

Banbury Civic Society has also called for the mural to stay. Chiltern had said a false ceiling would be put in the unit, covering the mural, or it would be donated to a local

The rail firm said the changes would give the station "a more inviting and modern entrance area". It added: "We will either

protect it or donate it to . an organisation that will preserve it."

Banbury MP Sir Tony Baldry said he hoped the artwork could be used as part of the planned 950-home Canalside estate. south of the train station.

The Conservative said: "If



The mural, painted by artist Nigel Fletcher, at Banbury railway station

Chiltern Railways wants to remove it, and it is not listed, that is what they are going to do. We have to make the best of what we can achieve.

"While I appreciate the concerns of Banbury Civic Society and the artist, they are not the only voices.

"Rail users may well be

looking forward to an enlarged and improved service at the station.

The petition is at tinyurl.com/chhkhue



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Three skip firms ordered to pay back disposal fees

Waste firm wins fraud case victory

THREE skip hire firms have been ordered to pay back more than £200,000 in underpaid waste disposal

Oxford County Court ruled in favour of Grundon Waste Management, which claimed the three firms had bribed their former staff to under weigh, wrongly record or not charge for waste disposal.

Now the court has ordered Andrew McDowell, of Banbury Mini Skips, to pay back £155,210 plus £36,797 interest; Anthony Hone, of ACH Mini Skips, £26,924 plus £7,279 interest, and Victor Ian Gardner, of Village Skips, was ordered to pay back £21,584 plus £4,075 interest.

Grundon was also awarded legal costs, to be split between the trio, of £52,904.

Grundon claimed each of the skip companies had breached its contract to use the waste disposal facilities and had "knowingly and dishonestly assisted employees to act in breach of their fiduciary and contractual obligations'

It related to an earlier hearing at Oxford Crown Court, in June, 2011, where former Grundon employees Sheldon Lewin, then

By Sam McGregor

46, admitted five counts of fraud, and Anthony Horne, then 26, admitted three charges of fraud, and were each given suspended prison sentences and 250 hours' community service.

During the hearing in 2011, the court was told the pair abused their positions as weighbridge operatives to take £10 a time from skip-lorry drivers to under-weigh their

They had manually altered vehicle weights, did not weigh them at all, or incorrectly recorded the type of waste at Grundon's Transfer Station, in Thorpe Way Industrial Estate, Banbury.

Afterwards, Grundon finance director Clayton Sullivan-Webb said the fraud had taken place between 2007 and 2010 and it was unknown how much the company had lost in waste that had not been charged for.

He said: "These companies were collecting waste, bringing it to our weighbridge and bribing our employees to undercharge them for the amount of waste they were disposing.

"Companies like these not only give the industry a bad



Grundon finance director Clayton Sullivan-Webb: 'We will not tolerate any type of fraudulent activity'

the public and businesses a cutprice service by committing fraudulent acts. Now they are paying the price.

"We were very pleased with the result."

He hopes the court case sent a clear message that Grundon did not "tolerate any type of fraudulent activity at its waste management sites

Mr Sullivan-Webb said: "Our professional reputation and the standing of the waste management industry is extremely important to us and we believe this judgment will act as a deterrent to anyone

thinking of attempting to bribe our employees in the future. Be warned, we will take action against you."

Grundon disposes of different types of waste, including confidential, food, clinical and

No-one was available to comment from the skip hire firms.

The Banbury Cake understands Banbury Mini Skips, which was based in Station Approach, Banbury, has gone into administration, and in 2011 it reported that the couple who owned Village Skips had

Depressed father 'took his own life'

suffering from depression took his own life, an inquest heard.

Daniel Button, 35, was found hanging in the garage of his Banbury home by his brother, Ricky Shorter, on January

His two sons were due to see him at his home in Wood Green that weekend.

He was taken to the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, but was declared dead on January 12. Oxfordshire Coroner's Court heard last Tuesday. The inquest heard he had a history of depression and had previously attempted to take his own life.

A statement from his GP, Dr Angela Alcock, at Horsefair Surgery, said: "He had longstanding problems in his

These included suffering injuries including a broken femur – from a car crash, having a long history of cannabis use, undergoing a total hip replacement, and depression. She added his

"complete shock" because he had not visited his GP recently.

Oxfordshire Coroner Darren Salter said: "First of all let me offer my condolences. I know there were two young sons and it is extremely sad especially from that point of view.

"So I offer my condolences to his family and particularly to the two boys.

He added: "There is evidence of intent to take his own life. That, therefore, is my verdict."

Inspections 'complete'

A HEALTH service watchdog said it managed to achieve its target of inspecting 447 Oxfordshire institutions in a

Concerns were raised in March that the Care Quality Commission did not have enough inspectors to complete the task

The CQC only had two inspectors in November and five in March, but had

increased this to ten by the end of the month.

It has responsibility for inspecting all of Oxfordshire's health and social care institutions, ranging from care homes and dentists to Oxford's John Radcliffe Hospital.

A CQC spokeswoman said: "We can confirm that all the services in Oxfordshire scheduled for an inspection last year received one."

Reward offered over 2004 killing

A REWARD of up to £40,000 has now been offered over the killing of Kevin Lavelle, pictured left.

Mr Lavelle, 29, died following a fight outside the Cricketer's Pub in Banbury in

The Merseyside resident, who was working in Banbury, got into an altercation with a group of Welsh men and was fatally struck

over the head with his own dumbbell bar. No-one admitted seeing who struck the blows.

The money comes from Thames Valley Police on top of other donations from Crimestoppers and the Justice for Kevin Lavelle Fund, set up by his friends and family.

Anyone with information should call police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

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The recycled paper content of UK newspapers in 2010

New commissioning group 'needs time to draw up its strategy'

New delay to lifting ban on abdominal surgery

HOPES that abdominal surgery will return to the Horton General Hospital, Banbury, have been dashed after a consultation was delayed.

Surgery was suspended at the Horton General Hospital in January because managers said it did not have enough top doctors

Hospital bosses had hoped

Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group's Dr Mary



By Oliver Evans

for a spring consultation, but now it will not be completed before the end of March next

The body which took over the county's NHS spending on April 1 has said the delay was needed so it could draw up a commissioning strategy.

would like primary, community and hospital services to be delivered throughout the

Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group's Dr Mary Keenan said: "Any consultation on changes to the Horton General Hospital will take place following the development of this strategy, but before the end of the current financial year.'

The decision was backed by the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, which runs the

Dr Keenan added: "Patient safety is paramount to us. We have, therefore, agreed with the OUH that while this work is progressed, the suspension of emergency abdominal surgery should remain in place."

Patients needing emergency procedures for abdominal issues such as hernias and appendicitis will be treated at Oxford's John Radcliffe Hospital.

About 28 patients, who would have gone to Banbury, will now go to Oxford, the trust said. The hospital had five consultants for abdominal surgery but changes were made after this fell to just two.

The trust said this was for a "variety of reasons" but it "would not discuss individual

members of staff". Former Horton physician and Keep the Horton General campaign member Dr Peter Fisher criticised the plans.

He said: "There is a growing dossier of stories from patients who have had traumatic experiences, both on the journey and on arrival in Oxford, where it appears the service has been overwhelmed by the additional workload.

"There seems to be a worrying lack of appreciation of how a small district general hospital functions.

Dr Fisher said it would "be more sensible and humane for initial assessment to take place locally, so that only those found to require an urgent operation would need to make the journey

And he questioned if the eventual consultation would be



MP Sir Tony Baldry

a "mere rubber stamping of a decision already taken

Banbury MP Sir Tony Baldry said: "Following the Francis report - into deaths at NHS hospitals in Staffordshire - I don't think it helps anyone if members of the public grandstand and say you should return a service which both the GPs and the trust says is unsafe.

"What is now required is some detailed work about where surgery is done throughout that trust.

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MS woman overjoyed at specially-adapted home

Rebecca Housley was thrilled to be given the keys to her speciallyconverted new home,

The 28-year-old's home in Gillett Close, Banbury, was adapted by Sanctuary Group and Cherwell District Council.

It has full wheelchair accessibility and a level-access shower.

Her mother, Brenda Housley, who also lives at the property, said: 'It feels like I have gone to heaven.

"The bungalow is beautiful and makes such a difference because there is room to move.

"We can get in and out of the

Rebecca can now go into the

"We can do everything that we just couldn't do before. It helps that the area is flat, so I can push the wheelchair."

Sanctuary's Jonathan Mullins said: "It is great to see just how much our developments can help to improve the lives of people like Rebecca who find themselves needing a new home."

The council contributed £35,000. Housing chief Debbie Pickford said: "I wish Rebecca and her family all the best for the future in their new home.'



Debbie Pickford hands over the keys to Brenda and Rebecca Housley, watched by Sanctuary's Harj Lota



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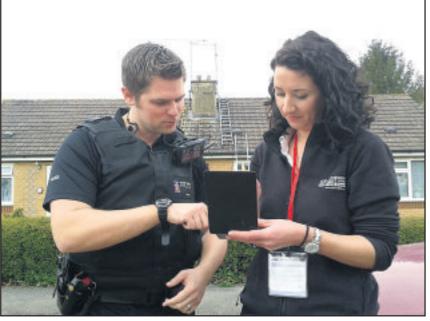
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■ Week-long operation by trading standards



PC Ion House and trading standards enforcement officer Charlotte Walton out on patrol

Patrols track down county's rogue traders

A CRACKDOWN on rogue traders has saved Oxfordshire residents nearly £30,000 in just a week, trading standards have

Police and trading standards officers made eight arrests, seized three vehicles and issued six written warnings during the special weeklong campaign.

Twenty-five police and five trading standards officers drove around every district in the county looking for rogue traders who were

targeting vulnerable and elderly people. They searched for rogue traders

already known to them, as well as new faces, stopping and chatting with workers from 54 different firms.

Trading standards' doorstep crime team leader Martin Woodley said: 'This has been a useful operation, where both police and trading standards have obtained vital

By Pete Hughes

information. A lot of people have seen us out and about doing real work, which would also be a deterrent to would-be criminals."

Trading standards enforcement officer Charlotte Walton took part in the operation. She said: "We are looking at jobs involving roofing, guttering, driveways and gardening. Rogue traders often choose something on the outside of the house that they can spot easily.

"They won't look professional. They will be dressed in fairly everyday clothes and often don't have a van that would draw attention to them.

"They also won't have safety equipment."

One of their arrests was a 49year-old on Wednesday. His customer said the man initially gave a quote of £300 for roof repairs,

which later shot up to £2,000.

The investigation then led them to an 87-year-old man who had gardening work done by the same suspect earlier in the day.

Mr Woodley said the suspect had offered a low price for the work but was believed not to have insurance or the right licence.

And on Tuesday, trading standards officers helped a 55-year-old woman, who said she felt intimidated by builders repairing her

After initially giving her a quote of £5,000, officers said the builders changed that to £25,000 once they started work.

The woman, who did not want to be named, said: "I am very grateful.

"The officers made me feel a lot more confident about how to handle the situation when I was feeling vulnerable and under

Foundation stage plan gets go-ahead

HILL View Primary School in Banbury has been given the go-ahead to take younger children on

The school can now open a foundation stage unit for three-year-olds.

Oxfordshire County Council education chief Melinda Tilley backed the proposal, meaning the school will now publish statutory notices and enter a six-week formal consultation phase.

The foundation unit at Hill View would move into the former Hill View Pre-School, which

closed earlier this year after it received two "inadequate" Ofsted ratings.

It would open in September and would offer up to 40 part-time places, along with the option for parents of children not yet three to pay for a term of nursery prior to taking up a free place once they turn three.

Mrs Tilley said: "This will give us time to refurbish Hill View and do what we need to.

"I think they are both a good idea and I wasn't going to stand in their way.'



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Call follows fears of a looming measles epidemic

Plea to parents over vaccine jab

FAMILIES in Oxfordshire are being encouraged to get children and teenagers to have the MMR vaccine if they are not already protected.

A renewed call was made last week to increase the uptake of the vaccine, which protects against measles, mumps and rubella.

The aim of the latest programme by Public Health England is to prevent measles outbreaks by vaccinating as many unvaccinated and partially vaccinated ten- to 16year-olds as possible in time for the new school year in September.

This follows high numbers of confirmed measles cases in the first three months of 2013, reaching 587 in England by the end of March.

This followed a record high of 2,000 cases countrywide in 2012.

Health bosses are calling for as many people as possible to get their children vaccinated, even though there were only two cases in the Thames Valley — and none in Oxfordshire — from January to March this year.

By Andrew Ffrench

In 2011, there were 24 cases and 17 last year, with six of these cases in Oxfordshire.

Peter Skolar, chairman of Oxfordshire joint health overview and scrutiny committee, said: "The county council became responsible for public health on April 1.

"Measles can kill and we are backing this call for parents to get their children vaccinated."

Dr James Mapstone, interim director for the Thames Valley Public Health England Centre, said: "Parents of unvaccinated children, teenagers and young adults who have missed out on MMR should urgently arrange to be vaccinated by their GP."

In Swansea, South Wales, a 25year-old man died after suffering measles earlier this month in an outbreak affecting more than 800 people.

For further information visit www.gov.uk/phe



Peter Skolar, of the joint health overview committee

InCOURT

Verdicts from magistrates courts around the county

■ DAVID WILLIAMS, 22, of Bretch Hill, Banbury, admitted two counts of burglary at Horley Scout Camp, Hornton Lane, Horley. Stole garden machinery from a shed on December 18 and December 9. Given 12-week prison sentence, suspended for 12 months, with 12-month supervision requirement and 20-day activity requirement. Also told to pay £300 compensation.

■ STEVEN PALMER, 21, of Elton Road, Banbury, failed to comply with a direction given by a police constable in South Bar Street, Banbury, on January 1. Did not leave the area when asked. Given a 12-month conditional discharge and told to pay £15 victims' surcharge and £85 costs.

■ MARCUS HADLAND, 41, of Bicester Road, Middle Barton, admitted stealing a Lancia Beta Volumex Coupe, which was under restoration and worth £6,000, from Steeple Aston between August 15 and August 18. Also took an Alfa Romeo without permission from Steeple Aston on August 15. Community order made with 240-hour unpaid work requirement and told to pay £500 compensation.

■ MOHAMED TASEEM, 42, of Windrush, Banbury, admitted possessing cannabis, a Class-B drug, on January 27 in Dukes Meadow Drive, Banbury. Given a 12-month conditional discharge and told to pay £15 victims' surcharge and £45 costs.

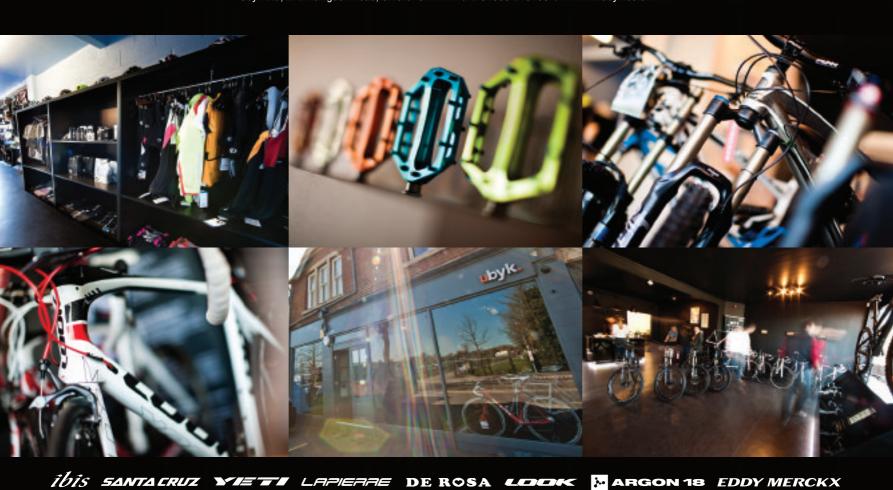
■ PAUL VARNEY, 41, of Ruscote Avenue, Banbury, admitted drink-driving in Longelandes Way, Banbury on January 29. Had 87mg of alcohol in 100ml of breath, above the legal limit of 35mg. Fined £475 and told to pay £48 victims' surcharge and £85 costs. Given 18-month driving ban.

■ ADRIAN FANNON, 34, of Evenlode, Banbury, admitted using threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour to cause harassment, alarm or distress in Britannia Road, Banbury, on May 10. Fined £110 and told to pay £15 victims' surcharge and £45 costs.



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Final appeal from the county council party leaders on polling day



lan Hudspeth, Conservative



Zoe Patrick, Lib Dems



John Tanner, Labour



Larry Saunders, Greens



Ian Macdonald, UKIP

Cast your vote

BATTLE lines have been drawn ahead of today's fight at the ballot box for seats at County Hall

All 63 seats in 61 Oxfordshire County Council divisions are up for election after boundary changes reduced the number of councillors serving on the authority by 11.

For current leader Ian Hudspeth, the outcome will be the first true test of his leadership and the council's record under his stewardship since he took office a

Mr Hudspeth, whose own seat of Woodstock is far from safe, said: "These elections are important to me, as it was only last year that I had the honour of becoming leader of the council.

"Despite some difficult challenges and tough decisions, I've enjoyed my year as leader and, subject to the wishes of the residents of Oxfordshire, I would like to continue in the role."

He said his party had protected services in the face of a 32 per cent cut in Government support for the council.

By Freddie Whittaker

He said: "My vision for Oxfordshire is a county where all children have the opportunity to achieve their full potential, a county where we can have economic growth to provide the jobs for the children whilst at the same time protecting our superb environment.

"I want to lead a county that creates a cycle of aspiration to deliver a society that is safe, strong and sustainable."

The Liberal Democrats, currently the official opposition at County Hall with ten councillors, will be hoping to at least maintain their number of seats.

Group leader Zoe Patrick said: "Liberal Democrats work hard for their communities and will always listen and campaign for the issues that matter most to the people they serve

"We wish to keep services local, enhance our environment, protect our elderly and support our young people."

Labour will be eyeing up the

opposition benches, with hopes of gains outside the city, currently its only stronghold.

Labour councillor and election agent John Tanner said: "This election is about fighting cuts and privatisation and running the county council differently and better.

"Labour wants more support for local schools, and better care for elderly people and families."

The Greens, who have already suffered a loss ahead of polling day after Chip Sherwood defected to the Tories, are also mounting a big challenge, fielding candidates for almost every seat.

Group leader Larry Sanders said: "There have been £28m cuts in adult social care over the last three years and £28m are planned for the next four years.

"All the other parties have accepted the total limit on the budget, a 1.99 per cent increase in council tax that makes these cuts inevitable.

"The Green budget called for a council tax increase of £20.44 a year, 40p a week, which would enable us to do away with the cuts

planned for the next four years."

UKIP is also hoping to scoop some seats in the county, and Oxford branch chairman Ian Macdonald said his party offered an alternative to the big parties.

Several independents are standing in South Oxfordshire and Oxford, and the Henley Residents' Group and Official Monster Raving Loony party will field a candidate each.



School praised over its improvements

ST JOSEPH'S Primary School, which was told it required improvement by Ofsted in November, has been praised for progress made so far. Inspectors said it had responded positively to addressing its weaknesses and effective steps had been taken to clarify and strengthen the role of senior leaders. The school now needed to ensure all

teachers understood how to interpret new assessment information and to explore further what more able pupils are capable of, to provide challenging work.

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InBRIEF

Verdict on OAP's fall

■ A 74-year-old woman died after a fall at home, a coroner heard. Jean Chapman fell at her home in Park Lane, North Newington, on January 5 and died four days later at Oxford's John Radcliffe Hospital. Recording a verdict of accidental death, Oxfordshire coroner Darren Salter said she suffered a head injury, which resulted in her death.

Race tally

■ THE fundraisers of Chipping Norton Rotary Club staged a race night, which raised £2,220 for good causes. The cash will be split between Katharine House Hospice, Banbury, and the Oxford Centre for Enablement.

Sailing day

■ AN open day for Banbury Sailing Club will be held at Boddington Reservoir, Byfield, Northamptonshire, on Sunday, May 5. The 2pmto-5pm event will include boating demonstrations. Visitors should bring a change of clothes, soft shoes and waterproofs. For more information, visit banburysailing.org.uk

■ Target number of births to be reached or unit may close again

Maternity unit - use it or lose it, say campaigners

CAMPAIGNERS say women must "use or lose" Chipping Norton's maternity unit once it reopens in July.

They spoke out after trust bosses would not guarantee that the troubled unit would stay open for longer than a year, if a target for the number of births there was not reached.

Births at the Cotswold Maternity Unit in Chipping Norton were suspended in October last year, but last month Oxford University Hospitals Trust board said it would re-open it on July 1.

They made the pledge as a report by the trust's head of midwifery, Jane Hervé, revealed management failures at the unit from 2008 to 2012, which led to its closure.

The number of births at the unit fell to just 32 between April and September last year and the report said the number would need to grow to 150 to 200 per year to maintain the viability of

By Andrew Ffrench

According to the trust, in 2008-09 there were 121 births, in 2010-11 there were 80 births, and in 2011-12 there were 117

Campaigners at the Oxfordshire Joint Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee said that it was unrealistic to expect the number of births to

year after opening. Mother-ofthree Sarah Boyd, 43, whose two home births were managed by midwives from the Chipping Norton unit, spoke on behalf of the town's branch of the National Childbirth Trust.

She said: "Knowing that it is likely to take some considerable time to re-establish trust in the unit, it is unrealistic to achieve those sorts of numbers in the

first year." Following the meeting, she added: "I think there is now an element of 'use it, or lose it' for women in the

"If women continue to choose to go elsewhere and the trust does not reach its required number, I am absolutely sure the unit will get closed again.

"There now needs to be lots of publicity about the unit at GP surgeries in Chipping Norton and the surrounding area, in Gloucestershire and Warwickshire.

"The unit needs to be given at least two years to achieve its births target.'

Samantha Mellor, 37, from Churchill, whose daughter, Isabel, was born at the unit, said: "There needs to be a major marketing campaign to get women back in there giving hirth

Andrew Stevens, director of planning for Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, said after a year there would be a review to see how successful the reopened unit had been.

He added: "We do not have an expectation to hit the numbers within a year."

Following the meeting he would not guarantee that the unit would be allowed to stay open for more than a year if it did not achieve the target number of births.

But he added: "The target is for 150 to 200 births a year. "It is not a pass or fail mark

it's something to aspire to with the local community.'

He said initial efforts to promote the unit would focus on mothers in Chipping Norton, through the town's GPs.

"Then we will seek to move to other areas further afield," he

Miss Hervé's report featured 31 recommendations and, in a report to the committee, she said an action plan had been drawn up to address the problems that had led to the decision to suspend births.





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Elisabeth Murdoch

Meet the county's richest

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Sir Charles Dunstone

Survey reveals league table of the wealthy

CHIPPING Norton set member Sir Charles Dunstone is now officially Oxfordshire's wealthiest person, with a fortune of around £1,080m.

The Carphone Warehouse founder is in 78th place on *The Sunday* Times Rich List.

His local promotion comes after the country's previous wealthiest

person, Virgin boss Sir Richard Branson, moved out of his home in Kidlington.

Mr Branson is worth £3,514m and is in 19th place this year.

Mr Dunstone is closely followed by Wafic Said, who owns Tusmore Park, near Bicester, and who gave £20m towards the Said Business School in Frideswide Square,

The Syrian financier is worth £1,000m and is in 84th place. The list is published each

year, ranking the richest men and women living in the UK.

Sir Martyn Arbib, whose investment company, Invesco Perpetual, is based in South Oxfordshire, is in 268th position and he is worth £320m.

Chipping Norton set member, Elisabeth Murdoch and her husband, Matthew Freud, is worth £255m and is in 315th

Former Oxford United owner Firoz Kassam, who still owns the club's home ground as well as

Heythrop Park, near Chipping Norton, is worth £214m but his wealth has fallen by £3m and he is in 372nd place.

Blackwell and his family are in 414th place and worth £195m, Grove-based Formula One boss Sir Frank Williams is worth £115m and in 693rd place and The Duke of Marlborough, whose family owns Blenheim Palace, is worth £110m and in 713rd place.

Further up the table the country's second wealthiest person is Lenonard Blavatnik, who is worth £11,000m and gave £75m towards Oxford University's school of government, which bears his

Britain's wealthiest person is Alisher Usmanov, the mining mogul who owns part of Arsenal Football Club and is worth

By Damian Fantato

Bookshop owner Nigel

Sex charges sentence

A 17-year-old has avoided a prison sentence for sending "obscene" text messages to three 12-year-old girls.

The defendant, who cannot be named for legal reasons, appeared in Oxford Crown Court and was given a 12-month youth rehabilitation order.

He was convicted on three counts of inciting a child under 13 to engage in sexual activity, in relation to three girls, between January 2011 and February last year.

The teenager, who is from Banbury, was cleared of encouraging a child under 13 to engage in sexual activity, rape, attempted rape and sexual assault on January 21, 2012, in relation to another girl.

Describing the messages he sent as "obscene", Judge Ian Pringle also sentenced the defendant to a four-day reparation activity requirement, a 21-week course about harmful sexual behaviour and made him subject to a sexual offences prevention

Planning verdict is deferred

DECISION on whether to let Banbury Academy sell part of its playing field for housing has been deferred by councillors.

The school – formerly Banbury School – wants permission for 44 homes, an artificial pitch, sports hall extension and outdoor climbing wall at its Ruskin Road site. The school said the homes would pay for the improvements.

A Cherwell District Council planning officer recommended planning committee members approve the plans but a decision will be made at a future date.

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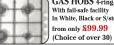
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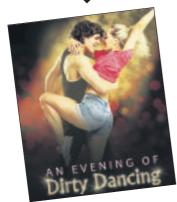
n Evening of Dirty Dancing, A celebration of one of the most popular cult-pop films of the 20th century, goes on stage at Banbury's Mill Theatre this evening.

This is a musical that brings to life some of the best memories of the brilliant film starring Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey as Johnny Castle and Baby who fell in love with dance, and each other, at Kellerman's.

"This is a feel-good concert that's the ultimate party. It's got something for everyone, girls and guys alike," said promoter Tony Hayman.

"The show has been touring the country to sellout audiences and they all get swept away on the wave of nostalgia. They find it impossible not to sing along to all the hits like Do You Love Me, She's Like the Wind, Hungry Eyes and of course, the Oscar-winning (I've Had) The

An Evening of Dirty Dancing is a sensational show originally directed by Matt Firth of the Royal Shakespeare Company and with choreography by Leanne Harwood



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Other hits from the original 1987 film include Big Girls Don't Cry, Hey Baby, Wipeout and Be My Baby in this fabulous 110-minute extravaganza.

The Dirty Dancing soundtrack spent 18 weeks at the top of the US album charts; it has sold more and is one of the best-selling albums of all time.

An Evening of Dirty Dancing celebrates the album live on stage with an incredible cast. It is slick, sexy and dynamic and has thrilled reviewers and audiences alike.

The North West Evening Mail said: "The cast had the audience captivated from the minute they came on stage. A display of high-energy, colourful outfits and a goodlooking cast, great dancing and great singing left your ears, as well as your eyes, hungry for more."

LovingLivingLondon.com said the show '...will set your heart and feet alight. Energy, dynamism, beautiful choreography, fabulous cast and some pretty slick dancing, *An* Evening of Dirty Dancing has it

And The Stage described it as an 'all-singing, all-dancing show with well choreographed routines... highly watchable entertainment'.

■ An Evening of Dirty Dancing at The Mill Theatre, Banbury tonight at 7.30pm. Tickets are £15-£17. Call the box office on 01295 279002. Visit anevening



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This accomplished musician's career goes back to the very end of the '50s when he was a plumber's apprentice with a huge admiration for Elvis Presley. He stepped into the music

business as lead singer with a



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HONEST RELATIONSHIP Nonsmoking Bradford lady, 65, 5'5',
stim-build, blue-eyes with a positive outlook, enjoy countryside,
dancing, music, theatre, seeking
a gent, 63-68, to enjoy similar
interest. Call 0905 005 2359 and
enter box number 128404 or send
a text to 80360

HAPPIER DAYS Kind-hearted. HAPPIER DAY'S Kind-hearted, homely and sensitive Didcot woman, 71, would like a date with a lovable, kind-hearted guy, for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box mber 136207 or send a text

bingdon widow, 80, would leet a non-smoking, active leniov davs out and cosv in with. Call 0905 005 2359 and

FRIENDSHIP & ROMANCE Genuine, active Oxford male, 28, slim build, 577°, caring, enjoys the gym, cycling and generally keeping fit, would like to meet a similar female, honest, CSOH and fun, for friendship and love. Call 0905 005 2559 and enter box number 122941 122941

SHARE SOME TIME Adaptable, upbeat and optimistic Oxford man, 33, would like to find a warm, laid-back girl, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 134837

FRIENDLY COMPANION Friendly Kidington male, 34, 5'8", blue eyes, smoker, loves pubs meals and cosy times in, seeking a female, for love and romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 141321 or send a text to 80360

WE COULD BE GOOD TOGETHER Down to earth Swindon male, 37, enjoys cycling, walks, travel and lots more, seeks laid back female for good times and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100773

TIME TO SHARE Lively Oxford male, 39, 5'10", med build, enjoys motorbikes, clubs, cinema, meals and more, searching for a loving woman, to share friendship and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117999

READY TO MEET MY SOULMATE READY TO MEET MY SOULMATE Outgoing, sociable Oxford male, 41, black, GSOH, caring, enjoys living life to the full and would like to share it with a bubbly, attractive and kind female, for a loving relationship. Call 0905

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DECISION IS YOURS Open-minded, upfront, white Wantage male, 44, 64", black hair, green eyes, medium build, own flat, would like to meet a black lady, to share life together. Call 0905 005 2559 and enter box number 139413 or send a text to 80360

a Text to 80360
GOOD COMPANIONSHIP Confident, friendly Wantage male, 44, 6'4", green eyes, likes cooking, sports, cinema, looking to meet a black lady, 26-42, to enjoy good company and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 14.1512 or send a text to 80360

SHARE THE MOMENT Friendly, lovely and sincere Oxford gent. 4: 5'10'', wants to meet a homely, sensible woman, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 134382 or send a text to 80360

ENERGIZER TIME Honest, friendly and charming Oxford male, 45, 6'3", stocky build, great sense of humour, enjoys sport, travel, cosy times and social drinks, seeking a fun-houring female, for happier a fun-loving female, for happier times. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101716 or send a text to 80360

COME CLOSER Active kind-hearted COME CLOSER ACTIVE, KING-hearted and upbeat Oxford bloke, 46, 6'3", looking to find an insightful, liberal woman, for fun and maybe a little romance. Call 0905 3599 and enter box number 130080

enter DOX number 130080
HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL Kind, caring, down-to-earth Thame male, 46, enjoys music, country walks, cooking, reading, films, seeking a kind, sincere, slim female, 25+ Call 0905 005 2359 and enter bumber 137427 or send a text to 80360

ACCEPT EACH OTHER Easygoing Wantage male, 51, own car, works full-time, likes most sports, would like to meet an outgoing female, for good times leading to more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 135164 or send a text to 80360

GET TO THE GOOD TIMES Sena GET TO THE GOOD TIMES Sepa-rated, laid-back Bicester guy, 51, 5'10", brown hair/blue eyes, de-cent build, self-employed, looking for an attractive woman. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 136282 or send a text to 80360

LOVE THE ONE YOU'RE WITH LOVE THE ONE YOU'RE WITH Friendly, warm-hearted Abingdon male, 51, good sense of humour, would like to meet a caring, well-matured girl, to enjoy good times together. Is you're looking for trul love then get in touch. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115894

TIME FOR A CHANGE Friendly, IME FOR A CHANGE FRENCY, expressive and vibrant Kidlington male, 51, with plenty of interests in life, would like to meet a life-loving, interesting lady, to share love, laughter and the future together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter how number, 1146 70 enter box number 114479

ETERNAL COMPANIONSHIP Outgo ing, divorced Witney male, 52, pubs, meals, nice walks, family life, seeking an interesting woman, to get to know better. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 126741 or send a text to 80360

GOOD NATURED Upbeat Bicester male, 52, 5'10", brown hair, medium build, looking for an attractive, black lady, for friendship and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 140492 or send a text to 80360

ALL TO LOVE Kind and caring ALL IO LOVE Kind and caring Oxfordshire male, 53, brown hair, green eyes, GSOH, searching for a nice, genuine girl, for friendship first, then maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 461278

PERFECT COMPANY Practical, origi PERFECT COMPANY Practical, original and loyal Oxford based man, 54, 510", divorced, into sport, history and much more, would like to find a pensive, kind-hearted female, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 137091 or send a text to 80360

TAKE CHARGE Bright, humorous and optimistic Banbury man, 55, would like a date with a chatty, active woman, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 133836 MAGIC MOMENTS Slim. fit Wall-

MAGIC MOMENTS Slim, fit Wall-ingford male, 57, likes swimming, keeping fit, eating in and out, animals, looking to find love again with a genuine & caring lady. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 142327 SHARING GOOD TIMES Upheat Bur-

ford widower, 58, own cars, works full time, likes days in and out, countryside walks, driving, looking for a similar woman for compan-ionship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117916 or send a text to 80360 CARING NATURE Dependable

informed and responsible Witney man, 58, 6'3", looking for a helpful, decent woman, to share a brighter future together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number

PASSION FLOWER youthful, friendly Oxford chap, 59, 5'9", dark hair, enjoys cinema, bowling, active days out and socialising, searching for a loving, happy and loyal woman, to build a lasting relationship with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101122 or send a text to 80360

DECISION IS YOURS Honest, easygoing Yorkshire man living in Banbury, 59, 5'6", slim build, self employed, likes gardening, cooking, cinema, travel, countryside, seeks genuine lady, to share life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 140930 or send a text to 80360

SO GOOD TOUCHER Genuine, easygoing, happy Abingdon male, 62, own home/car, enjoys dancing, days out and walking the dog, searching for a genuine lady, with an attractive and happy nature.

Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box

SO GOOD TOGETHER Genuine

DECISION IS VOURS Honest

a text to 80360

number 466085

MORE IN TIME Self-employed Witney male, 64, loves cinema, theatre, eating out and more, searching for a serious-minded lady, for a loving and supportive relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 109413 or send a text to 80360

MAKE A FRIEND Warm, romantic Bicester male, 65, searching for an interesting, active woman, for days out, friendship, meals and good company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 851123 LOVING LIFE Loval, solvent North

Oxfordshire gent, 66, 5'9", loves soul and motown music, coffee and theatre, searching for an attractive, interesting lady, 50-65, to share and explore interesting times. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104998

A FRIEND INDEED Semi-retired Oxford male, 66, 6', slim-build, likes playing bowls, home life seeking an easygoing female, for good times and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 137812 or send a text to 80360

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67, 5'10", adequate intelligence,

and enter box number 108871

hearted, considerate and loving Didcot man, 67, would like a date with an old-fashioned, intuitive

OPEN YOUR HEART Cheerful, slim

likes sport, walks, animals and cosy

times, searching for a decent lady, to settle down with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number

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Banbury male, 69, 5'6", GSOH,

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HOPE THIS WORKS Cuddly Swindon lady, 47, easygoing and fun to be with, looking for friend-ship leading to more with a nice, friendly, bubbly woman. Where are you? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 851817 BEST FRIENDS FOREVER Straight

49year old lady, slim brunette, works in admin, looking to make new friends in the Swindon area. Into yoga, pilates, dancing and cycling. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 128139

BE THERE FOR ME Honest, caring wiltshire woman, 52. seeking straight female friends, for socialising, outings and good company.

Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box

number 113955

LUCKY CHARM Serious, lovable and imaginative Malmesbury lady, 54, simply searching for an independent, free-thinking girl, for a special and lasting relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 134242 or send a text to 80360



ON THE MENU Attractive Didcot stocky-build, seeks mature, active gent, 60+, for red wine, fun and riendship. ohac would be nice.
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to 80360

MADE TO MATCH? Genuine, loving, honest guy, 52, good sense of humour, looking for the same in my soul mate. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 128318

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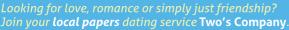
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Hero returns with thrills

IRON MAN 3 (12A, 129 mins) Action/Sci-Fi/Thriller/Romance. Robert Downey Jr, Sir Ben Kingsley, Gwyneth Paltrow, Guy Pearce, Don Cheadle, Jon Favreau, Rebecca Hall. Director: Shane Black.

ow there's a hint of sunshine in our lives, we can actually contemplate the arrival of summer and in the cinematic terms that means the blockbusters are coming.

One of the early ones out of the block is *Iron Man 3* in which Robert Downey Jr returns as the billionaire-inventor-superhero Tony Stark, aka Iron Man.

Directed and co-written by Shane Black, the man behind the *Lethal Weapon* movies and hailed as a pioneer of the action genre, it's a real romp of a movie (which will be welcome news to those who sat through the arduous prequel.)

This time, the film-makers have gone for a back-to-basics feel in which Stark is forced to find a way back to being a superhero when all his money and toys are stripped away

Technically it's a sequel to two films, *Iron Man 2* and last summer's *The Avengers* in which Iron Man and a roll call of *Marvel* comic book heroes united to protect Manhattan from aliens.

Stark hasn't coped so well in the aftermath of these events (this is a person who previously thought he was the most powerful man in the world) and we find him a nervy insomniac prone to panic attacks.

He does at least have his former assistant-turned-CEO Pepper Potts (Gwyneth Paltrow) on hand to soothe him as the pair have moved in together.

It's not long, though, before their domestic bliss is thwarted by a two-pronged attack – the arrival of biologically advanced super-powered humans and the mysterious figurehead of a terror group known as The Mandarin.

The special effects are faultless and deserve to be seen in 3D, while Iron Man's suit, which appears like swarm of bees and attaches itself piece by piece to Stark, adds extra interest.

This movie supersedes many (including *Iron Man 2*) in that the thrills and spills are never to the detriment of the story and script, which feel sharp and fresh.

Downey Jr gives an entertainingly jittery performance as a superhero on the edge, while his jaded oneliners raise a laugh.

In any other film, Stark's relationship with the young boy, who discovers him recuperating in his shed, would be played for schmaltz – but not here.

Instead, Downey Jr delivers acerbic lines to great comic effect.

While Guy Pearce, as the founder of a brain-trust organisation, Don Cheadle, as Stark's ally, and Rebecca Hall, as his former lover, all put in charismatic performances, although it has to be said the latter feels underused.

A special mention has to go to Sir Ben Kingsley, as The Mandarin, and a turn of events that feels truly



Film still from Iron Man 3, with Robert Downey Jr

inspired. Fun for both fans and newbies to the comic book world, the movie may be a lengthy 129 minutes but it doesn't feel like it.

That's a bonus as you won't want to leave your seat before you've seen the end-of-credits surprise.

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CakeWhat's on

Events SATURDAY

The Fibre Festival: The Town Hall, High Street, Chipping Norton. 10am-4pm. Greeted by sheep and lambs outside, visitors can view and be involved with spinning, weaving, and other textiles crafts such as rag rugging. Local knit groups can join a grand 'knit-in' – with vintage teas being served. Local History Society will be hosting a display of the history of the mill and the town's wool trade, and there will also be guided walks with rare access to the mill itself. 01608 645970.

SUNDAY Abingdon Air and Country Show: Abingdon airfield, off Barrow Pood Shippon 10am to 5 40pm

Road, Shippon. 10am to 5.40pm. The Abingdon Air and Country Show has a varied ground show to go along with a fly-in of both modern and vintage aeroplanes and the associated air display. Held in support of local Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust. Tickets and parking: £15, OAP £10, 5-15yrs £5, under-5s

free. Gates 10am, ends 5.30pm 07769689823.

Music

SATURDAY: University Church of St Mary the Virgin, High Street, Oxford: Bach - B minor mass. The opening concert of the Oxford Early Music Festival brings together the International Baroque Players and a star-studded team of soloists (including James Bowman) under the direction of Daniel Hyde, Informator Choristarum at Magdalen College, in Bach's choral masterpiece. 7.30pm. £22, £15. 01865 305305. SUNDAY: Abbey, High Street,

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voted off by the audience), this
Oxford-based wind quintet will

present music to educate and

entertain. Suitable for all ages. 0844 8700 887.2:00pm£3.50 (£6.50 adults)

Sun Inn, High Street, Hook Norton: Roughcut Ruby. Fourpiece party band perform a bank holiday special. Free admission. 8.30pm. 01608 737570.

Theatre

The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton: May 2-4. The Mikado. Chippin

May 2-4, *The Mikado*. Chipping Norton Amateur Operatic Society (CHAOS) return to Gilbert and Sullivan. £12.50, matinee £10.50. 7.30pm, Sat mat 2.30pm. Box office: *01608 642350*.

New Theatre, George Street, Oxford:

May 4-5, English National Ballet's *My First Cinderella*, presented by English National Ballet and English National Ballet School. For a young audience. Prokofiev's score accompanied with narration. Sat 11am, 2 and 5pm, Sun 11am and 3pm. Tickets £11-£26.

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Evo-Stik Southern League squad faced with depleted squad

United fall short in the finale **LATEST TABLES**

Cambridge C St Neots Tn Hitchin Tn AFC Totton

A DEPLETED Banbury United side lost at Bashley in their last Premier Division game of the season.

Without a host of first-team regulars due to injury and suspension, the Puritans handed debuts to reserve team regulars Leam Howards and Conor Collins.

They managed to raise 11 players, but could not name any subs.

And the new-look visitors had the better of the first half, but without either side creating

Bashley (Gamble 48, 90+6) **Banbury United**

clear chances

Three minutes after the break, however, Bashley took the lead when substitute Rob Gradwell fed Mark Gamble, who rounded Banbury goalkeeper Warren Carter to score.

0

CORTED HOLIDAYS

In the 60th minute, Bashley were reduced to ten men when Matt Finlay was sent off for a second yellow card after jumping into a tackle with Collins.

Despite a man advantage, Banbury did not look likely to equalise, Ben Polk's shot wide from distance in the 78th minute the closest they came.

Banbury's fate was sealed in the sixth minute of stoppage time when Harold Agyeman-Prempeh brought down Gradwell in the area with Gamble converting the spotkick.

Banbury Utd: Carter, Shariff, Martin, Ashton, Sc Bridges, Agyeman-Prempeh, Polk, Dumbleton, Skendi, Howards, Collins.

Attendance: 196.



Ben Polk's shot wide was nearest Banbury came to scoring

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PUBLIC

STATUTORY NOTICE ALTERATION OF LOWER AGE RANGE AT HILL VIEW PRIMARY SCHOOL, BANBURY

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Oxfordshire County Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to Hill View Primary School, Hill View Crescent, Banbury OX16 7DN from 01 September 2013.

It is proposed to extend the age range of Hill View Primary School to 3 - 11, to establish Nursery provision The proposed alteration will make provision for 40 parttime equivalent nursery places. The current capacity of the school is 525 (Years FI - 6) and the proposed capacity will remain 525. The current admission number (into FI) for the school is 75 and the proposed admission nu will remain 75.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk or by contacting Diane Cameron, School Organisation & Planning, FREEPOST OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL Tel: 01865 816453 or email: Hill_View2013manager@myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk

Within six weeks from the date of publication of this proposal any person may object to or make comments on the proposal online at http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk by emailing Hill_View2013-manager@myconsultations. oxfordshire.gov.uk or by writing to Diane Cameron, School Organisation & Planning, FREEPOST OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Signed: Jim Leivers, Director for Children's Services

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To apply, please submit a CV and covering letter to Kathryn Morrison

Closing date for applications is Friday, 24th May 2013.

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An experienced PA is required to assist the Deputy Head, as well as managing the HR administration for the School. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate good office skills and have experience of working in Human Resources. The post is full time during term time, with some requirement to work in the holidays and on a rota basis on Saturday mornings.

For an application pack please apply using the online application process at www.bloxhamschool.com, telephone 01295 724377, or email val@bloxhamschool.com

Closing Date for both positions: 3rd May 2013

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New Boxster offers more of everything

By David Duffy

A colleague unwittingly hit the nail on the head when he slipped into the Boxster's passenger seat.

"Didn't you have one of these a couple of months ago?" he asked. No, I replied, that was a 911.

The mistake, especially in the dark, was understandable. But the similarities extend way beyond mere

For the Boxster package delivers all the essence of Porsche, superb performance, precise handling, excellent sound, in a smaller, slinkier and, crucially, much more affordable package.

The sales success of the original two-seater Boxster was reckoned to be the car that saved the German sports car maker. Launched in 1996, two-seater Boxster massively popular, selling more than a quarter of a million.

The third generation simply offers more of everything.

Bigger yet lighter and more economical, the changes to the design make the Boxster look more dramatic. The bi-xenon headlights and reworked grille give more impact to the front end and the side profile is more sculpted to give a slinkier, elegant silhouette.

But the real test of any sports car is how it performs. And the answer to that is simply brilliantly. The test car used the flat six, 2.7-litre engine with a potential 261 horsepower, which is more than enough for anyone, except the supremely power-hungry. For those there is the 3.4-litre Boxster S, but I would save your money

The real joy of the Boxster is the combination of pinpoint handling and superbly responsive steering in tight, twisting bends. But the even better news is that the ride comfort of the Boxster on long journeys is first-class, as is the seven-speed Porsche-Doppelkupplungsgetriebe 'PDK' automatic transmission. This gearbox can be operated from paddles mounted on the steering column, but leave it to work its electronic magic on its own and the car delivers seamless gearchanging, faster acceleration and better fuel consumption than any driver can

The result is a car that is more

Auto facts

Model: Porsche Boxster Price: £37,589 Insurance group: 40 (1-50) Fuel consumption (Combined) 36.7mpg Top speed: 162mph Length: 437.4cm/172.2in Width: 180.1cm/71in

Luggage capacity: 5.6 cu ft (front)/

Fuel tank capacity: 14 gallons/64 litres CO2 emissions: 180g/km

Warranty: 3 years/unlimited mileage



SALES SUCCESS: The original Boxster is credited as the car that saved the sports car maker

responsive, more agile and simply more fun. Fuel savings are assisted by auto stop/start and an ingenious 'coasting' system borrowed from the 911 Carrera. A sport button also allows you to choose between a sporty and a comfortable set-up designed for fuel economy.

The Boxster does make you ask if you need to buy a 911? Fans of the big brother will point to its extra performance and razor-sharp handling when teetering on the edge, but how often can you honestly use that? And the Boxster is about half the price of a 911 Carrera.

Newcarscene

Carbon-fibre cocoon for latest BMW

THERE were stern warnings from the Institute of Public Policy Research that greater investment is required in electric car infrastructure to ensure Britain isn't left behind.

Although the electric car grant is still in operation, giving a £5,000 subsidy on electric vehicles, it is the infrastructure that is required to make them sufficiently desirable to a wide audience.

In Leipzig, Germany, BMW is putting the finishing touches to the production-version of its i3 electric car, due to be officially announced in July.

It has similarities with other pure electric vehicles such as the Nissan Leaf in that it was

designed from the ground up to be electric rather than an electrified version of an existing car.

But BMW's approach to a new electric vehicle is far more comprehensive than that.

Towering high above the BMW plant at Leipzig are new wind turbines, 150m in height to give the best performance. They will power the factory that

produces the i3 to ensure that this element of production is 100% sustainable.

But the i3 story starts thousands of miles away in Moses Lake, just outside of Seattle, where a hydro-electric plant powers carbon company SGL's site. In a joint venture with BMW, SGL

is producing cheaper carbon fibre materials for the new electric vehicle.

Carbon fibre is immensely strong but lightweight; 50% lighter than the equivalent steel which is why F1 cars are made of it. The expense of production has ruled it out of all but supercars, yet the i3 will be constructed almost entirely of it. Sitting underneath the tough safety cell is the i3's electric drive pack, with the batteries sandwich in the best place for safety and performance and the motor at the rear.

Cars like this will ensure the success of the electric car; if it is genuinely desirable, it will sell itself.

BANBURY CAKE, Thursday, May 2, 2013 21 Banbury Cake

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Wheelsanddeals

- THE biggest collection of tried and tested motorcycle riding routes in the UK ever assembled has been brought together by journalist Simon Weir. The finest roads to ride include a couple in the Banbury area, with the Welsh Tour taking in Banbury and Chipping Norton. The 'Charlbury TT' on the B4437, A361 and B4026 forms part of a 105-mile route that is the "essence of all that's great about riding a bike in rural England". The spiral-bound book, with a foreword by Charley Boorman, will be published on Thursday, May 16. Bikers' Britain, AA Publishing, £16.99.
- JAPANESE luxury car maker Lexus is claiming that the new IS 300h hybrid executive saloon will be cheaper to own than any of its less powerful and less refined 2.0-litre diesel rivals. Tax advantages associated with electrified powertrains, sub-100g/km carbon dioxide emissions and strong residual values are said to make the IS a wiser choice for business users.

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- » A member of our armed forces
- » Self-employed

Easy 1 minute **Online** Application

- » UK or EU Licence » No Cash Deposit
- » Retired » Ex Bankrupts
- » Just moved over from abroad

Can't Get Credit? You Can Now!

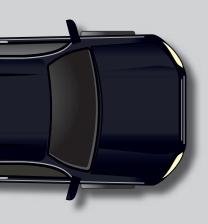
- 21 years or older?
- √ A full UK or EU Driving Licence?
- ✓ UK resident?
- → Then apply online now and let us do the work!

Your one stop shop for cars and finance apply online at www.carcreditbanbury.co.uk Call us on 01295 298 513

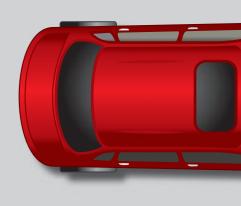
A SMALL SELECTION OF OUR STOCK VEHICLE OF SPECIAL INTEREST BENIMAR 6000 EUROPA 6 BERTH MOTORHOME, COOKER, FRIDGE, FULL BATHROOM, HOT AND COLD WATER, LOCAL OWNER FROM NEW, SOLAR POWER, TV POINT, LOUNGE AREA AND DINING AREA FULL AIRCON.............. £4499 £2999

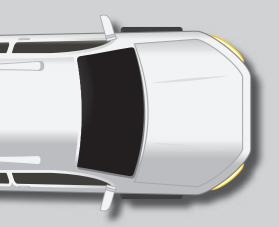
4 BANBURY CAKE, Thursday, May 2, 2013

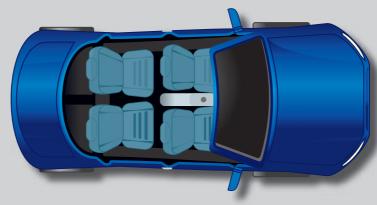


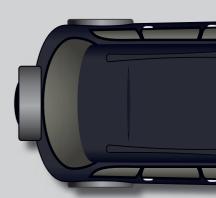


BIG TEST BIG TEST WEEK 2013









VISIT PARTICIPATING DEALERSHIPS BETWEEN SAT 22ND JUNE & FRIDAY 28TH JUNE AND BOOK A TEST DRIVE TO BE ENTERED INTO A FREE DRAW TO WIN

6500 OF VOUCHERS
TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY

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